United Nations

ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2018/1

Economic and [illegible]al Council

Distr.: General
26 January 2018

Original: English

Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

Food and Agriculture Organization

European Forestry Commission

Fortieth session
Geneva, 22-23 March 2018
Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda
Adoption of the Agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fortieth session[1]

Session to be held at the Palais des Nations (Room VIII), Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 22 March 2018.

This annotated agenda provides guidance to delegates to the Joint Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management on the structure of the meeting and main topics to be discussed.

The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management will be invited to provide guidance on the implementation of all areas of the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work (WIPoW), supervise the work of Teams of Specialists and facilitate the exchange of information on their work, and identify priorities for action and relevant emerging issues. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management will suggest priorities and specific recommendations to the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission for consideration and shall, for each Work Area, on the basis of a report from the secretariat, review and comment on the activities undertaken during the past year, the current year and the plans for the forthcoming year.

Work delivered by the secretariat since the thirty-ninth session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party can be found in the background documents by Work Area, which will be made available on the website of the Forestry and Timber Section before the meeting. Presentations by the secretariat will not repeat the content of the background documents, but rather highlight main achievements by the secretariat under each Work Area. Main issues will be discussed in interactive group work to allow for ample feedback from participants.

The main issues to be considered during this session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party are: the next round of Forest Resources Assessment reporting, a revised structure of the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire, the next Forest Sector Outlook Study, the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry 2015, the mid-term review of the voluntary implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan, capacity-building on criteria and indicators in the Caucasus and Central Asia, the Bonn Challenge for the Caucasus and Central Asia as well as reports from all the Teams of Specialists.

[1] Documents and more information, including the registration form, at http://www.unece.org/forests/wpfsem2018.html

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I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Outcomes of the joint seventy-fifth session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the thirty-ninth session of the FAO European Forestry Commission.

3. Update on international policy processes with an impact on forests.

4. Guidance on Work Areas:

   (a) Work Area 1: Data, monitoring and assessment;

   (b) Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice;

   (c) Work Area 3: Communication and outreach; and

   (d) Work Area 4: Capacity-building.

5. Overview on the Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation's forest-related work in the region and list of Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work activities 2019.

6. Any other business.

7. Date and place of next meeting.

8. Election of officers.

9. Adoption of the report.

II. Background information

10. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management is a subsidiary body of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission and contributes to the implementation of the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work (WIPoW) of those two bodies. It does so by coordinating the Teams of Specialists and the activities of the WIPoW as well as providing technical advice. It takes instructions from Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission and meets annually to:

(a) Provide guidance on the implementation of all areas of the WIPoW;

(b) Supervise the work of Teams of Specialists and facilitate the exchange of information on their work;

(c) Identify priorities for action and relevant emerging issues; and transmit suggested priorities and specific recommendations to Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission for consideration; and

(d) The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management shall, for each Work Area, on the basis of a report from the secretariat, review and comment on the activities undertaken during the past year and the plans for the forthcoming year.

11. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management shall review, on an ongoing basis, the work of the Teams of Specialists and their contribution to the Work Areas, as well as work between the Teams of Specialists, to ensure the most effective and efficient implementation of their activities. It will:

(a) Receive and discuss the reports from the Teams of Specialists in order to enhance the understanding of their activities and assess their work plans. When needed, the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management may review and recommend updated mandates for endorsement by the parent bodies;

(b) Identify possible synergies; and facilitate the exchange of experiences between Teams of Specialists and delegations from member States; and

(c) Increase the visibility and impact of the work of Teams of Specialists among member States and within the relevant bodies in the United Nations.

12. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management, as part of its work for Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission, shall:

(a) Propose priorities for activities in the Work Areas and on relevant emerging issues;

(b) Provide, upon request from the parent bodies, methodologies for use in economic analysis of the sector, as well as techniques for collecting, validating, analyzing and disseminating information and statistics;

(c) Initiate, upon request from the parent bodies, ad hoc projects in economics and statistics related to forestry, forest products and forest policies and institutions;

(d) Contribute and provide technical advice to Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission on issues under consideration by those bodies, including the preparation of studies on the status and future of forests and on the forest industry such as the Outlooks and the Forest Products Annual Market Reviews;

(e) Invite other sectors to the sessions to discuss issues related to forest information and management matters of common interest, including best practices in sustainable forestry management and their impact on the overall sustainability of forests, natural resources management, and other issues such as biodiversity and climate change; and

(f) Invite other international bodies, including Forest Europe, Eurostat, the International Tropical Timber Organization and the Conference of European Statisticians to the sessions, with a view to coordinating activities and avoiding any duplication of effort.

III. Annotations to the Provisional Agenda

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

13. The Chair will introduce the agenda and ask for its adoption.

Item 2: Outcomes of the joint seventy-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Europe, Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the thirty-ninth session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, European Forestry Commission

14. The secretariat will present a summary of the discussions and will highlight implications for the work of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management.

Item 3: Update on international policy processes with an impact on forests

15. Participants in the session will be presented with some of the latest developments, with an impact on forest statistics, economics and management. This may include, but is not limited to, Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) work on the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (2017-2030) and UNFF's Quadrennial Integrated Programme of Work (2017-2020), the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and the

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

16. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party will be invited to consider the impact of these policy processes on the future work of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party, as appropriate. Member States will be invited to share their views on possible regional work in support of the above-mentioned developments.

Item 4: Guidance on Work Areas

17. Delegates will be requested to review the activities of 2017 and the first quarter of 2018. They will also be expected to review future work plans for 2018 and indicate their support or where changes are needed. This guidance should cover both the work of the secretariat as well as the work of the Teams of Specialists.

18. The secretariat has invited each Team of Specialists to prepare a report to the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party by 23 February 2018 and will publish these separate reports on the website of the meeting. The leader or a designated member of the re-established team will be invited to present the work of their Team of Specialists under the Work Area. In case the Team of Specialists has not yet met to formally re-establish the new team, the leader or a designated member of the team from the period 2016/2017 will be invited to present the work and the schedule for establishing the new team.

19. Work delivered by the secretariat since the thirty-ninth session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party can be found in the four "Reports by the secretariat" on Work Areas 1-4, which will be made available prior to the meeting. The secretariat presentation at the meeting "Implementation by the secretariat" will highlight only the major achievements in order to allow for more discussion time. The secretariat will be aiming at offering interactive sessions on some items with high relevance for the work in the coming year. The "Reports by the secretariat" will contain a detailed description on the topics and the setup for the discussion.

20. Some highlights from the implementation by the secretariat are listed below.

(a) Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment

21. The secretariat will update the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on the progress of ongoing work and planned activities for 2018, regarding reporting on forests, forest management, forest products markets and the analysis of these data.

22. The secretariat will only provide a short overview on the items outlined in the background paper "Report by the secretariat – Work Area 1" and member States will be given the possibility to comment on the Work Area in general. Based on guidance received by the bureau of the ECE/FAO Working Party and time available, the secretariat may organize interactive discussions on one or more of the following topics:

(a) Forest ownership – discussion by experts and stakeholders – possible implications for reporting and policy making practice;

(b) Wood energy – current publication and guidance on possible future publication, Joint Wood Energy Enquiry 2017;

(c) Status of Harmonized System (HS) 2022.

23. The details of the setup of the different focused discussions will be included in the informal background paper "Report by the secretariat – Work Area 1". The outcomes of the group work will be presented to the plenary and upon approval included in the report of the meeting.

24. The following Team of Specialists will be invited to present the results of work completed since the previous session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party, and plans for work under the new mandate (until 2019):

(a) Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management;

(b) Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics;

(c) Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products; and

(d) Team of Specialists on Wood Energy.

(b) Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

25. The secretariat will update the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on the progress of ongoing work and planned activities for 2018, regarding forest policies and forest sector outlook.

26. The secretariat will only provide a short overview on the items outlined in the background paper "Report by the secretariat – Work Area 2". Member States will be given the possibility to comment on the Work Area in general. Based on guidance received by the bureau of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party and time available, the secretariat may organize interactive discussions on one or more of the following topics:

(a) Forest certification – update on current issues and guidance to secretariat;

(b) Forest Sector Outlook;

(c) Forests in a green economy: Mid-term review of the Rovaniemi Action Plan implementation and discussion on the next steps;

(d) Ministerial Conference on the Bonn Challenge for Forest Landscape Restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia;

(e) Regional forum on sustainable development for the UNECE region.

.27. The details of the set-up of the different focused discussions will be included in the informal background paper "Report by the secretariat – Work Area 2". The outcomes of the group work will be presented to the plenary and upon approval included in the report of the meeting.

28. The following Team of Specialists will be invited to present the results of work that have been completed since the previous session, and plans for work under the new mandate (until 2019):

(a) Team of Specialists on Forest Policy (Forest Policy Network);

(b) Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook.

29. The Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook will be invited to present the outcomes of a workshop conducted in January 2018 in Geneva. In this workshop, policy makers and experts discussed which policy questions the next round of Forest Sector Outlook Studies (FSOS) should focus on as well as other topics such as geographic and time horizon and possible scenarios.

30. The Outlook Team will also present a proposal for the implementation of the next FSOS to be discussed by the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party in the following group work.

(c) Work Area 3: Communication and outreach

31. The secretariat will update the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on progress of work and planned activities for 2018, regarding communication and outreach.

32. The secretariat will only provide a short overview on the items outlined in the background paper "Report by the secretariat – Work Area 3". Mforember States will be given the possibility to comment on the Work Area in general as well as a short update on the International Day of Forests 2018 *"Forests and Sustainable Cities"*.

33. Based on guidance received by the bureau of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party and time available, the secretariat may organize interactive discussions of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on one or more of the following topics:

(a) Discussion on the WIPoW and its possible contribution to the UN Strategic Plan for Forests;

(b) Communication on forest related matters by countries (member States will be invited to tell their stories – e.g. websites, printed material, films, etc);

34. The Team of Specialists on Forest Communication (Forest Communicators' Network) will be invited to present the results of work that have been completed since the previous session, and plans for work under the new mandate (until 2019).

(d) Work Area 4: Capacity-building

35. The secretariat will update the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on progress of work and planned activities for 2018, regarding capacity building.

36. The secretariat will only provide a short overview on the items outlined in the background paper "Report by the secretariat – Work Area 4". Member States will be given the possibility to comment on the Work Area in general. Based on guidance received by the bureau of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party and time available, the secretariat will organize interactive discussions of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on one or more of the following topics:

(a) The United Nations Development Account (UNDA) Project on "Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia (2016-2019)";

(b) Employment in the forest sector – presentation of latest trends and discussion on the green jobs outlook.

37. The Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the forest sector will be invited to present the results of work that have been completed since the previous session, and plans for work under the new mandate (until 2019).

Item 5: Overview on the Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation's forest-related work in the region and list of Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work activities 2019

38. The joint seventy-fifth session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the thirty-ninth session of the FAO European Forestry Commission requested in the WIPoW [ECE/TIM/2017/2–FO:EFC/2017/2] Annex I para 4: *"A specific list of activities to implement the Programme is agreed on an annual basis by the Working Party and the Committee and the Commission. ECE and FAO are asked, in line with their governance structures, to present an overview of their forest-related work in the region to each session of the Working Party in order to facilitate the review of the proposed list"*. The secretariat offers to make the information available on the website of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management meeting prior to the meeting. Both organizations will be invited to present this list of activities for 2019 to the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party.

39. In accordance with this request, the secretariat will invite ECE and FAO to compile such an overview and present this list of activities planned for 2019 to the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party. The information will be compiled in a separate informal document titled *"Overview on ECE and FAO's forest-related work in the region"*.

40. The secretariat will present a preliminary list of activities planned for 2019 to the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party. In line with the WIPoW 2018-2021, the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party will be invited to review and agree on the list. *"The final list of activities prepared every year should help member States and regional economic integration organizations to further prioritize the work of the secretariat. A related budget will be prepared and shared with the Joint Bureaux, member States and regional economic integration organizations after the approval of the list to understand the feasibility of activities and identify funding needs."*

Item 6: Any other business

41. None at the time of writing.

Item 7: Date and place of next meeting

42. The secretariat proposes March 2019 in Geneva, Palais des Nations for the forty-first session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management and that it could be organized around the International Day of Forests, which will be celebrated on 21 March 2019. Delegates will be invited to discuss the idea, dates, as well as the structure of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party session in 2019.

Item 8: Election of officers

43. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party will be expected to elect a Chair and two Vice-Chairs, who will hold office until the forty-first session. At its thirty-ninth session, the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party re-elected Mr. J. Prestemon (United States of America) as Chair, Mr. J. Hangler (Austria) and Mr. M. Dieter (Germany) as Vice-Chairs to hold office until the end of the fortieth session. According to current procedure, Mr. J. Hangler would leave the bureau and Mr. J. Prestemon will conclude his term of office as the Chair of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party and Mr. M. Dieter would become Chair.

44. The secretariat invites member States to consider who they would like to nominate as incoming Vice-Chair. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party is reminded that the selection of the incoming Vice-Chair should take in consideration gender and regional balance. The secretariat will circulate an official communication on this to the Heads of Delegation.

Item 9: Adoption of the report

45. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party will be invited to adopt the report of its session based on a draft prepared by the secretariat. This report will include a specific list of activities to implement the WIPoW is agreed on an annual basis by the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party, Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and European Forestry Commission.

IV. Tentative timetable[2]

46. The fortieth session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management will take place on 22 and 23 March 2018. Several Teams of Specialists will meet on Wednesday, 21 March 2018. The secretariat proposes the following tentative timetable:

Wednesday, 21 March 2018 (not part of the official meeting)	
10:00 – 13:00	Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics, Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook Meetings of other Team of Specialists meetings are under consideration
13:00 – 15:00	Lunchtime event to celebrate the International Day of Forests 2018 "Forests and Sustainable Cities"

[2] The timetable is purely indicative and may change in the course of planning of the event. It reflects the planning of the meeting on the day of the submission of the document.

Wednesday, 21 March 2018 (not part of the official meeting)	
15:00 – 18:00	Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics, Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook Meetings of other Team of Specialists meetings are under consideration
18:00	Reception

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Thursday, 22 March 2018

10:00 – 13:00	Item 1 – Item 4
15:00 – 18:00	Item 4

Friday, 23 March 2018

9:30 – 12:30	Item 4 continued
14:30 – 17:30	Item 4 continued – Item 9
17:30	Closing of fortieth session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party

V. List of important abbreviations and acronyms

COFFI	Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry
ECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
EFC	European Forestry Commission
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HS	Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System
JWP	Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management
UNDA	United Nations Development Account
ToS	Team of Specialists
WIPoW	Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work